



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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For immediate release

1. DNR invites Iowans to learn about Lake Darling restoration at Aug. 8 meeting

DNR INVITES IOWANS TO LEARN ABOUT LAKE DARLING RESTORATION AT AUGUST 8 MEETING

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BRIGHTON — Major changes are taking place at Lake Darling to improve water quality, and the DNR is inviting Iowans to learn more at an Aug. 8 meeting.

Dr. John Downing from Iowa State University will explain the lake assessment process, speak about watershed improvement and lake restoration efforts, and discuss the next steps for improving Lake Darling.

The DNR will hold the meeting at Brighton City Hall, located at 100 E. Washington St. Appetizers will be served at 5 p.m. with presentations beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Water quality in the lake has already seen a boost from the Lake Darling Watershed Project, which works with landowners to install conservation practices that keep pollutants from reaching the lake. Since 2001, the project has reduced the amount of sediment reaching the lake by about 3,500 tons per year. Put 3,500 tons of soil in dump trucks, and you'd have a line of trucks more than a mile long.

The project continues to improve the land and the lake by further reducing the amount of pollutants — such as sediment, bacteria and nutrients — that reach the lake.

Building on these land-based efforts, lake restoration work in Lake Darling will continue to improve the lake's water quality.

"It's critical that we have watershed projects in place first, and the folks in the Lake Darling watershed are doing a great job," said Mike McGhee, the DNR lakes and rivers project coordinator. "Restoration can be expensive, and we want to make sure that work lasts. The work in the watershed is preventative maintenance, continuing to keep the lake clean after restoration."

The DNR and local partners will consider a number of restoration options to improve water quality, including improving shoreline access, lake dredging, protecting the shoreline from erosion and eliminating rough fish, like carp.

For more information about the meeting, contact the Southeast District Fisheries office at Lake Darling at (319) 694-2430.